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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MAY

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 8 Number 5

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Research and Analysis
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

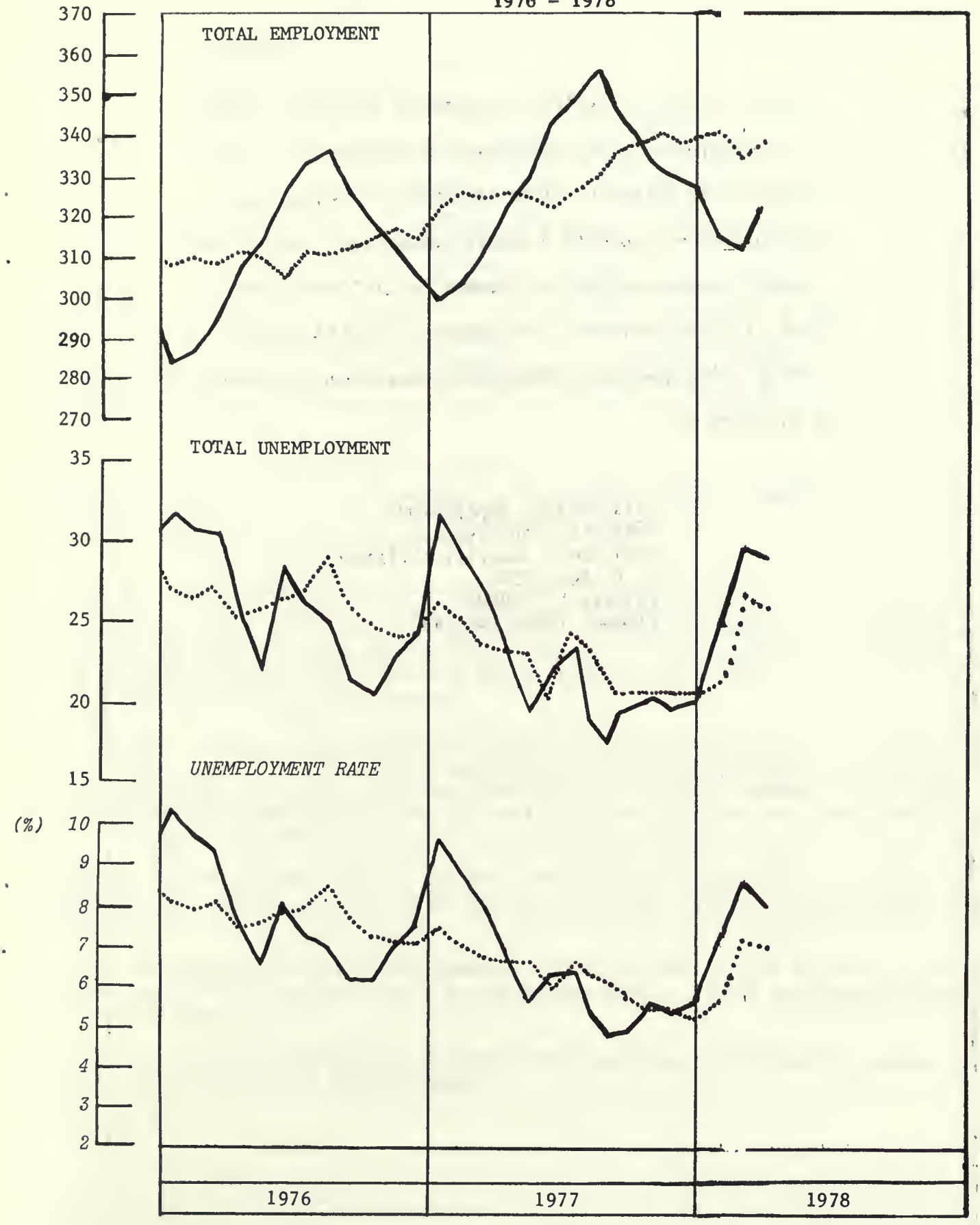
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1976 - 1978



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

Dick Gibson, Supervisor
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Employment Security Division
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 449-2430

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Montana's economic conditions showed a general pattern of improvement again in April, as the majority of industrial sectors gear up for their most active time of the year.

A gain of 6,200 persons was registered in the civilian labor force during April, bringing that figure to a current total of 356,800.* This represents a 6.5% increase over the same month last year. The number of employed individuals increased by 11,800 during the four week period, reaching a total of 333,400 for April. Concurrently, the unemployment situation statewide also exhibited marked improvement, having 5,600 persons less on the jobless rolls. These changes in the composition of the civilian labor force resulted in a healthy drop of the unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted), from 8.3% in March, to a current rate of 6.6%. Once again, agricultural employment was the greatest contributor to the improved job market, experiencing an increase of 6,700 workers since last month. However, the construction industry also provided a substantial boost this month, increasing its payrolls by 1,000 people.

Preliminary reports indicate that the lumber and wood products industry is experiencing better conditions as the spring breakup in the forests begins to subside. Employment and general activity levels in this vital sector should improve in the coming weeks, as loggers gain better access to the woods.

As previously suggested, construction continues to be a dominant force in Montana's springtime economy. The increased business volume is responsible for the healthy employment advances of the past month, and that volume is not likely to decline during the summer. The estimated number of statewide building permits issued in April was approximately 12.0% greater than the number issued in March, and such increases can only fuel the welcome seasonal growth in this sector.

Unfortunately, certain other gauges of economic performance are not as good this month. Real spendable earnings registered a moderate decline from February's level, amounting to $90.71 per week in March. The fact should be kept in mind, however, that this indicator regularly fluctuates from month to month and should be observed over time, in order to gain full significance.

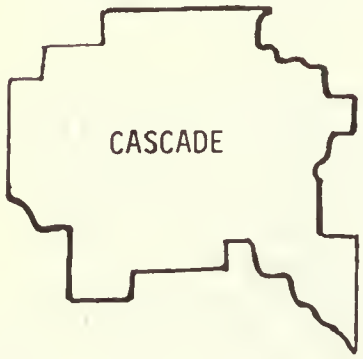
Cumulative business formations for the first four months of the year remain ahead of comparable 1977 figures; but at 1,637, the total is only slightly better than the 1,622 of last year.

Finally, the composite index of six leading indicators continued to improve in February. It moved up to 100.2 for that month, but more importantly, it has continued to improve for the past three.

Considering available information, prospects for improvement in Montana's economy are good, at least through the summer season.

* See page 2.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Great Falls SMSA registered a slight decline from March's level of 35,300. At 35,200, the number of persons in April's labor pool was .3% less than the previous month. Concurrently, other employment related figures took a turn for the better, The number of individuals holding jobs rose to 33,000 in April, amounting to an increase of 600 from March's total. The ranks of the unemployed, in turn, declined by 700, leveling off at 2,200 persons in the month of April. These shifts in the components of the civilian labor force produced a decline in the area unemployment rate, to 6.2%. Not unexpectedly, spring appears to be exerting its beneficial influence upon the employment situation.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The economy of the area seems to be on a stable and normal course for this time of year. Industrial activity in virtually all sectors is exhibiting continued signs of seasonal improvement, with construction providing much of the support.

Among the major projects being undertaken in that sector are a $978,000 addition to the recreation center at the Air Force base; a $780,000 condominium development; a 50 unit motel valued at nearly $305,000; and a number of other commercial projects of less cost. Total April building permits were 107, which compares favorably with the 86 recorded in March, but lags slightly behind the 115 which were issued in April 1977.

Strong hiring has been taking place in most sectors as demand for workers has been steady. Agriculture, in particular, has been a substantial source of employment in recent weeks. Reports from the local job service office indicate that this sector has been consistently short of help for the past month.

The effects of a labor dispute involving a major commercial airline have been felt by airline employees in the Great Falls area recently. With flights curtailed, a number of workers have been laid off due to a general lack of activity.

The number of new businesses formed in the area during April was 28. Unfortunately, this figure does not compare well with the 49 firms established in April 1977. Furthermore, the year-to-date total of 144 is lagging behind the number recorded during the same period last year.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force posted a decrease of 700 persons from March's level of 52,600. With a current total of 51,900, the second consecutive month of decline was realized in this figure. Despite this loss of potential workers in the area, the total number of those employed rebounded partially from a drop recorded in March. During that month the employment level was reduced to 49,100 individuals, whereas during April the total climbed to 49,500.

Unemployment figures also showed a positive movement in April. The number of persons in this category decreased from 3,500 in March, to 2,400 this month, yielding a calculated unemployment rate of 4.7%. That rate compares very favorably with March's rate of 6.7%. The number of new unemployment insurance claims filed in the past four weeks has also shown improvement. The trend during this period has been generally declining, consistent with improved employment prospects.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Typical for the spring season, new and ongoing construction activity appears to be a significant force in the economy of the Billings area. Among other projects being undertaken are the 30,000 square foot expansion of a food warehouse; major remodeling of an office building; and the construction of three new office buildings. The housing sector is providing further impetus to the construction sector, with 111 residential building permits being issued in the city of Billings during April.

Other developments of importance to the economy of the SMSA include the announcement by the regional headquarters of a major railroad that a third work shift will be added to a coal car maintenance facility in the area. Jobs for 47 new workers are being filled with an expected increase of $750,000 in the yearly payroll.

Unfortunately, the labor dispute involving employees of a commercial airline serving the area has created adverse consequences for workers in related business. Among other things, twenty to thirty individuals preparing flight meals at the airport have been laid off as a result of curtailment of the airline service.

As a final note concerning the area's commercial sector, 263 new businesses have been established to date in 1978. This amounts to an 11.9% increase over last year's comparable figure of 235 firms.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate in the Butte-Anaconda LMA continued to fall this month with a 1 percent drop from 9.1% in March to 8.1% in April. This accounted for a 300 person decrease in the ranks of the unemployed. The number of unemployed now stands at 2,800. The rates for the individual counties, with the exception of Beaverhead, reflected this decrease. Granite dropped from 12.1% unemployment for March to 10.2% for April, Silver Bow from 10.8% to 9.4%, Deer Lodge from 9.4% to 8.5%, Powell from 7.9% to 7.4% and Madison from 4.5% to 4.1%.

Employment is also reflecting its seasonal improvement. It now stands at 31,900 for this area, up 6.3% over the same month last year and increasing 1,200 persons over the March figures. Civilian labor force showed a healthy improvement of 5.5% over last year for a new total of 34,700. While noting these improvements, it is important to remember that the Anaconda-Butte LMA is still experiencing a higher unemployment rate than that of the state, 6.6%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Construction seems to be growing in importance as a part of the economic activity of this LMA. Contracts in excess of $500,000 were awarded recently for the new Powell County jail in Deer Lodge. Completion of this project is expected some time this fall. The Butte-Silver Bow building department has authorized $1.1 million dollars of construction. A sizeable portion of this came from building alteration for a local utility office building. There were also 7 permits issued for new homes. In the Dillon area, permits were issued for a new office building and a department store. Construction is also continuing on an apartment building, remodeling of a night club, additions to an area motel and on 30 new homes in the Dillon and the surrounding area.

The smelter in Anaconda has curtailed its operations starting May 1 and will resume normal operations about July 3. This curtailment has affected several hundred employees and will affect more as maintenance and repairs are completed.

With the approach of summer, many businesses are preparing for what they hope is a banner year for tourism. Hiring is underway in the service and trade areas in anticipation of this increase. There is also a demand for experienced farm hands as the agricultural sector picks up.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The employment situation in the Bozeman area exhibited improved status again in April. The civilian labor force reached a level of 26,500, an increase of 700 persons over the previous month's total. The figure also reflects a very healthy increase of 14.2% over April 1977.

Those individuals who were employed numbered 25,200 for the month, compared with 24,100 in March. At the same time, those without jobs registered a decline of 400 in their ranks. These favorable changes in the labor market resulted in a 1.6% drop in the rate of unemployment, leaving that figure at 5.0% for the month of April.

Local Job Service office reports indicate consistent decreases in the numbers of new claims for unemployment insurance, as more people are finding work at this time.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Most indications suggest a strong springtime economic resurgence is taking place in the Bozeman area.

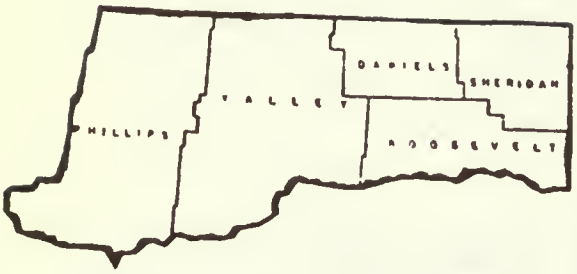
The improving employment picture seems to be fueled in large part by a very active construction sector. Reports indicate that residential building is the primary factor involved, however some very substantial commercial projects have also been started. Among these, the most significant is the proposed construction of a major shopping center. A building permit for the project was recently issued with a record valuation of more than $5.5 million. Such an undertaking will certainly have a positive economic impact on the area both in the short and long term.

Increased spring buying apparently is giving a welcome boost to retail sales in the commercial sector. Employment here is benefiting from the activity rise, with an increased demand for sales clerks and service workers.

One negative aspect of the current situation is found in the figures for new business formations. To date this year, 153 firms have been established, compared with 167 during the same period last year. The rapidly approaching tourist season should provide a stimulus to the commercial sector in the coming months, however.

Agricultural work continues to increase, slowed from time to time only by heavy rains.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force rose to a level of 17,500 persons in April, an increase of 900 over the previous month. This represents a 5.4% rise over 16,600 members of the labor pool in April of 1977.

Employment made a sizeable gain in April, moving to a level of 16,500 persons from the 15,400 total registered in March. This employment level represents a 5.1% increase over the 15,700 employed persons in April of last year.

The unemployment rate again declined in this LMA, as did the figure for the entire state. It dropped to 5.7%, which represents 1,000 unemployed individuals. This follows unemployment rates of 7.2% in March, and 8.1% in February. This 5.7% figure compares favorably with the 5.4% unemployment rate for April of 1977.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic activity in the LMA is progressing very well at this time, with a heavy emphasis on construction. Leading the industry are projects related to highways, government roads, housing and commercial development. The Glasgow Job Service office reports that several developments at the Valley Industrial Park are in progress, and should be reporting opening dates in the near future.

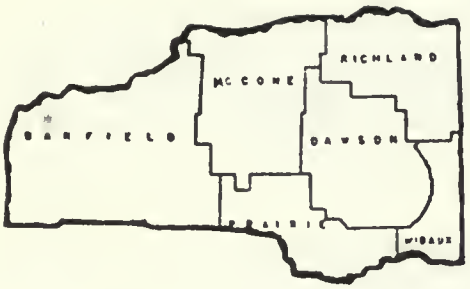
The Young Adult Conservation Corps Program (YACC), designed to provide summer employment for youth, will begin hiring in the Glasgow and Malta areas at the end of May. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management will be two of the agencies involved in the program.

The demand for agricultural workers has been strong in the past few weeks, with spring planting the main activity.

New business formations, an indicator of economic conditions, totalled seven in April, compared with 13 in April of 1977. The year-to-date total lags behind the figure of last year, 34 to 41, but no firm conclusions about the economy can be drawn from this indicator alone.

At this point in the year, the local economy appears to be sound, with employment and economic activity growing, but the summer agricultural season should provide the answer to the economic health of the LMA.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The seasonal pattern of improvement in the Glendive LMA employment picture continued during April. The civilian labor force gained 700 persons during April, to reach a level of 14,700. Concurrently, the employed labor force increased by 1,000 workers to a 14,100 figure. Although most of the increases can be attributed to seasonal factors, they do indicate a healthy economy for the area.

The unemployment rate for the area for April was reduced to 3.9%. The expansion of the labor force and its employed portion accounted for some of the reduction, but the actual number of unemployed individuals also decreased by 300 during the last month. The 3.9% figure for unemployment betters the 4.0% rate for April of 1977. All of these indicators would seem to point to an excellent summer for the area's economy, even exceeding the normal seasonal upturn.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Retail business is leading the upturn in activity in the area in response to the tourist season and the arrival of spring and summer. A new clothing store has opened in the Glendive area. Work continues on a gas processing plant at Sidney.

The construction of major highway projects in the area is resuming. Construction of housing units has also begun with the advent of better weather conditions.

Oil exploration activities are continuing in the area. The crews employed in these activities are creating secondary demands for services such as motels and restaurants.

Agriculture is also progressing on its normal seasonal upswing. Branding is mostly completed for the cattle industry. Sugar beets have been seeded and are up. The sugar beet factory has recalled some workers for maintenance, repair, and installation of new equipment.

The area Job Service offices report openings for experienced farm workers. Medical occupations also continue to experience a shortage of qualified applicants. The oil activity effort, discussed earlier have created a demand for seismic helpers and pipeline construction workers. Housing construction has produced some openings for both skilled and unskilled help. These worker shortages are to be expected in light of the area's low unemployment rate as discussed earlier.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The number of people in the four county area civilian labor force grew by 200 during April to reach a level of 12,000 individuals. This slow rate of growth is also reflected by the fact that the labor force is only 3.4% higher than last April's, compared to a Statewide increase of 6.0%. The employed portion of

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA (Cont.)

the labor force did, however, grow faster than the total labor force at a 3.7% rate. 11,300 persons are now employed in the area.

The unemployment rate for the area was greatly reduced during the month and is now at 5.6% in comparison to last month's 8.2% rate. The actual number of unemployed dropped to 700 from last month's 1,000, but is the same as that reported for April of 1977. The analysis should be made that the area is experiencing seasonal expansion, but not as much true growth as the rest of the state.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations again ran ahead of last year's pace in the area. A total of 16 new firms entered the business sector in April bringing the year-to-date total to 57. This compares extremely favorably to last year's similar period when only 36 firms were initiated. The reader should be aware that new business firms are only a partial indicator of economic conditions, but other variables must be taken into account to fully determine the direction of the local economy.

The advent of the summer season should bring an upswing in the agricultural sector and tourist related activities. Hiring to fill seasonal needs in service industries such as restaurants, motels, and service stations should be starting.

Portions of the area have been adversely affected by recent extremely heavy rains and the resultant floods. The Big Horn River and other streams have reached flood stages never before anticipated. The consequent damages are not fully known yet. but the area's economy may suffer at least temporary setbacks in many sectors. Some disaster assistance may be forthcoming to help to alleviate the effects of the flood. Agricultural activities may be especially hard hit, if just for the fact that the weather has made outside work impossible for much of the period. Hopefully, there has been no major permanent effect on the crop and livestock industries.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situations:

In April, the civilian labor force stood at 13,300 persons for the three county Havre LMA. This compares with 12,400 persons in April of 1977, for a substantial 7.3% growth in the labor force. The employed portion of the labor force also expanded and now numbers 12,600 individuals during April. The employment expansion amounts to 6.8% since April of last year.

The unemployment rate took a notable drop from 6.6% in March to 5.5% in April. This optimistic sign may be dampened by the fact that the 5.5% rate is slightly above last year's April rate of 5.3%. The indicators point toward a growth in both labor force and employment, hopefully at a balanced, stable rate.

HAVRE LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The highest activity levels in the Havre LMA economy are still being experienced in the wholesale, retail, and service sectors. This can probably be best explained as normal seasonal expansion in these fields. Other activity in the area has been adversely affected by recent rainy weather. Construction was starting to pick up but the weather has limited outside work. Exploration drilling for gas and oil has been almost completely shutdown due to muddy conditions caused by the precipitation.

New businesses were also down for the month but still remained rather consistent with last year's figures on a year-to-date basis. This too could possibly be a weather related occurrence.

Agriculture is certainly most responsible for the resurgence in total employment in the area. Normal seasonal hiring is now commencing for farm and ranch work. Activities already taking place include seeding, grain hauling, and summer fallowing.

All indicators point toward long term stable growth for the area economy, with only temporary respites due to seasonal factors such as weather.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situations:

The civilian labor force in the Helena LMA continued its steady, increase pattern in April. The labor force growth has been matched by a similar constant growth in the number of employed individuals. Both the labor force and the employed show a 6.9% increase over last year's April figures. Approximately 24,700 persons were employed in the three county area during April.

April's jobless rate for the area was considerably lower than March's mostly due to seasonal factors. The rate of 5.8% also compared favorably to the 5.6% rate of a year ago. All factors point toward the continued gradual expansion of employment in the labor market area with a relatively stable unemployment rate.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Job layoffs continued to plague the usually stable Helena job market in April. A major smelting firm has announced plans to temporarily shutdown the zinc fuming portion of its installation at East Helena. Approximately 70 employees will be laid off by the end of June. Zinc prices, like those of other non-ferrous metals, continue at an extremely low level due to the competition from imported sources. Also, a major downtown department store has closed its doors with about 20 workers affected.

Major announcements were recently made regarding several substantial businesses in the area. A recreation and fitness center costing $1-2 million will be constructed on the western outskirts of Helena. The developer reports that the center is the first phase

of a planned commercial center and housing subdivision, all of which will utilize geothermal hot springs as a source of heat and water. A downtown auto dealer has begun construction on a new facility east of Helena, which should be completed by late summer. The vacated downtown building will be razed and replaced by a motor bank.

The housing industry continues to boom with excavation and construction work progressing rapidly. Major highway projects are continuing on MacDonald Pass and between Helena and East Helena.

Some concern has been expressed over the replacement of the recently closed department store. Many individuals believe that such an anchor is vital to the development of the downtown mall. The downtown area received another blow when the Federal Reserve Bank announced tentative plans for a new facility on the southeastern edge of town.

The farm and ranch sector continued its seasonal expansion. The demand for farm workers is much stronger than a year ago, but no shortage of workers is evident.

Clerical openings continue to be the demand occupations in the area, with shortages of typists and keypunchers. Good demand has also been noted for laborers as construction expands. The service industries report continued demand for waiter-waitresses.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in this area expanded again in April, and now stands at 35,200. This amounts to a 2.3% rise over last month's total of 34,400, and a 14.3% jump from the level recorded in April 1977. The employment level also rose again during the past four weeks, reaching 31,000 individuals. Concurrently, the number of persons without jobs decreased, with total unemployment dropping from 4,500 in March, to 4,200 in April. These very favorable shifts resulted in a one month drop of 1.1% in the unemployment rate, which now stands at 12.0% for the three county labor area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

Economic prospects in this area seem to be improving with each passing week. In a region as heavily influenced by the lumber and wood products industry as this one is, early spring conditions have a profound, if temporary, effect upon the general economy. Spring breakup in the forests has halted or severely curtailed much of the work which could be done by loggers during the past two months. However, recent reports indicate that improving conditions are allowing an increasing number of workers to log more time on the job.

As in most parts of the state, construction is also on the rise here. Consistent hiring increases have been noted during the past four weeks, and this pattern is not likely to change much in the coming summer months.

The retail and service industries have also begun a process of gearing up for the summer.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

The Kalispell LMA generally enjoys a strong tourist trade each year, and no exception is likely in 1978. Many enterprises have started hiring summer help in anticipation of surges in business volume brought on by visitors to the region.

New businesses totaled 49 for the month of April, and thus far this year, 195 firms have been established. This pace is virtually the same as the one set during the first four months of 1977, when 194 new businesses had been recorded in the LMA.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the Lewistown LMA took a notable drop to 4.4% in April, as compared to 5.6% during April of 1977. The total number of unemployed persons now tallies 500 in comparison to 900 in March. It is also an improvement over the 600 unemployed individuals noted in April of last year.

The civilian labor force expanded to an estimated 10,700 persons in April. This is a 5.9% increase over last year's figure and 300 higher than March's estimate. Employment grew at an even greater rate of 7.4% as compared to April of 1977. The employed labor force is 700 persons larger than last month's. Some of these positive figures are, of course, only normal seasonal increases but an expanding labor force, a larger employed segment, and a lower unemployment rate all indicate a healthy economic situation.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

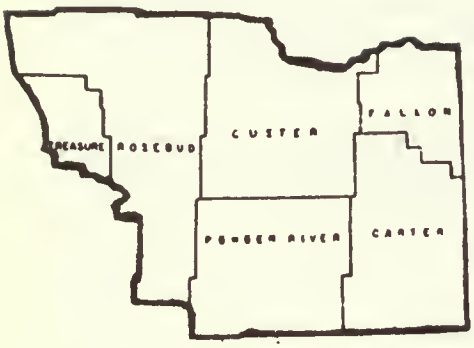
The number of new businesses established during April was 8 in the Lewistown LMA. This total is higher than last April's 6 and indicates that the area may finally be rebounding from a slow winter season. The yearly total of new businesses is now nearly equal to the same period total for last year.

Reports at the present time point toward an increase in the construction sector's activity. Work is progressing on office and housing projects despite some setbacks due to recent rainy weather.

Agricultural activities are noting their normal seasonal gains as the weather permits the commencement of certain operations. A shortage of agricultural workers has been reported for some occupations.

The retail and service trades seem to show the normal, seasonal growth to be expected. The entire economy of the area could be quite simply stated as being in its normal stable pattern of slight expansion, with predictable seasonal variations.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

April's jobless rate fell to 4.5% following last month's 6.8% rate for the six-county area. This would appear to be a normal improvement as the rate in April of 1977 was 4.4%. The number of unemployed was estimated to be 700 as compared to 600 for April of 1977.

The civilian labor force rose to a level of 14,900 persons during April. This was an increase of 500 individuals over March's figure. The large increase however, occurred in the employed labor force which jumped by 800 during April, causing the aforementioned decrease in the rate of unemployment. The positive growth in both labor force and employment are a welcome change from March's declines in the same categories.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

As discussed last month, construction activity is moving ahead as the major force in the areas economy. Seasonal resumption of work on highway projects continue, with a subsequent increase in the service industry's activity. Excavation work has begun on a new addition to the local community college. A shopping center complex is under construction and will house a discount store, a grocery store, and a restaurant. The restaurant is the initial Montana venture for a national chain and will employ 55-60 people when it opens. Good weather during the early part of the period generally helped stimulate the construction industry.

Recent extremely heavy rains have caused some flooding in the area. The economic and employment effects of the flood may not be immediately known, but a slowdown in outside work will probably be the minimum effect. There is also a possibility that some counties may qualify as disaster areas because of the flood. By next month a complete economic assessment of the flood area damage may be possible.

Agriculture was continuing its normal seasonal expansion before the recent rains. Reports were that grain and livestock conditions were close to ideal in the early part of the period, but the recent floods may negate any positive trends in the agricultural economy. Cattle prices continued an upward trend at the recent sale in Miles City, but may be leveling off.

The Miles City Job Service continues to report a shortage of qualified agricultural workers, but the supply seems to be meeting the demand in most other areas. The service industries also note some shortages, especially in the restaurant worker field.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Missoula area's civilian labor force has grown by 2,800 individuals since April of 1977, and the number employed has increased by 2,900 during the same period. This expansion of the area labor force has reduced both the number unemployed in the area and the area's unemployment rate. These positive growth trends indicate that the area may be entering a period of true economic growth.

However, April's unemployment rate of 8.3% is still well above the statewide average of 6.6%, indicating that problems still exist in the economy. The rate is lower than the February and March figures, but that is the normal seasonal pattern for this area. Looking at the long run picture it is also a substantial improvement over last years April rate of 9.1%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

A major shopping center near the southern edge of Missoula is nearing completion and will be opening soon. The mall will be one of the largest in the state and cost $15 million. Approximately 60 stores will occupy the facility employing about 600 individuals. About 20 of the firms are existing Missoula businesses, with the other 40 being new. The major department stores located in the mall have already begun recruiting and application taking in anticipation of their openings.

Construction continues to highlight the economy of the Missoula area. A highway interchange construction project is to get underway soon. The building of offices, apartments, and homes continues at a good pace. A 72 unit apartment complex will be constructed just east of Missoula. Another franchise hamburger restaurant has recently announced construction plans.

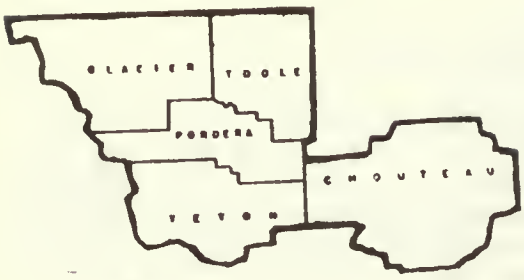
The outlying areas are also receiving a portion of the construction gains. A clinic is nearing completion in Superior and will house five doctors. The courthouse annex in Hamilton is nearing completion and ground has been broken for a new bowling alley. A plastics factory is in the process of relocating from California to Hamilton.

The spring breakup in the woods is almost over with and the lumber industry is resuming full operations. Weather conditions could, of course, have an effect on this seasonal employment factor in this industry. Hopefully, conditions will remain stable and full production can resume.

A 40 person layoff has occurred at a home building products plant in Bonner. It is hoped the individuals will be reassigned to other duties at the plant. The airplane pilot strike has affected about 15 individuals in the area. It has caused considerable disruption in the public transportation sector, with other carriers having to try to meet the demand for service.

The labor market for the area continued its normal upward trend for this time of year. Retail establishments provided many job opportunities with the scheduled opening of the new shopping center nearing. Some increased demand was also noted for outside workers as the weather conditions improved.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The April civilian labor force stands at 17,700, an increase of 900 persons over the March figure. This estimate is also 9.3% higher than last year's similar statistic, indicating a positive trend in the labor force size. Even more significantly the employed portion of the labor force expanded to 16,700 individuals, a gain of 1,200 over the March calculation.

The growth of the labor force, coupled with the rise in the number of employed persons, resulted in a substantial drop in the unemployment rate; from 7.9% in March to 5.5% for this month. The actual number of unemployed persons dropped from March's 1,300 to April's 1,000. The five county area's current rate of 5.5% compares favorably with the statewide rate of 6.6%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

New business firms in the area were reported at 30 for April compared to 10 for April of 1977, a notable increase. The business formation figures for the year-to-date are also ahead of last year. All activities in the area showed more new businesses being formed in April than a year ago, so the trend appears to be areawide. New business formations are, of course, just one indicator of economic growth, and other factors should be considered in any overall analysis.

The construction industry appears to be commencing its seasonal upturn in activity. Plans for a new shopping center for Cut Bank were announced, with an estimated labor force at 110 when completed. An airport resurfacing job was let on bid at Cut Bank, and numerous office and housing projects are continuing. A new grain elevator is under construction at Big Sandy.

Agricultural activity is also responsible for the increases in employment and labor force in the area. The demand for farm workers is up and a definite shortage of qualified workers exists in some parts of the five-county LMA. Local Job Service offices report that these shortages may be alleviated when numerous youths finish their school year and start looking for temporary employment.

Some demand has also been felt for workers in other industries. Oil activity is also on the upswing, with some shortages of roughnecks. The service sector reports a demand for all types of restaurant workers including cooks, waiter-waitresses, and dishwashers.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

April 1978

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	210	108	2042
CETA-CEP	76	67	234
CETA-INST.	41	35	397
CETA-OJT	72	40	182
JOB CORPS	39	21	427
PSE TITLE II	71	38	430
PSE TITLE VI	99	58	804
PSE TITLE VI "A"	112	48	678
CETA - AWE	53	30	97
STIP	20	--	20

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	Mar. 1978	*Percent Change From:* Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978
All Items	189.7	*.7*	*6.5*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

APRIL 1978

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*6.1%*
Female	*27.7%*
Youth	*9.1%*
Over 45	*23.9%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	307.5	283.1	262.2	20.9	24.4	*7.9*	*8.8*	*
February	309.0	286.1	263.0	23.1	22.9	*7.4*	*8.7*	*
March	317.0	294.2	266.1	28.1	22.8	*7.2*	*8.1*	*
April	325.9	306.8	271.8	35.0	19.1	*5.9*	*7.4*	*
May	329.6	313.0	276.7	36.3	16.6	*5.0*	*6.7*	*
June	345.5	324.2	282.5	41.7	21.3	*6.2*	*8.0*	.1
July	354.4	334.8	289.9	44.9	19.6	*5.5*	*7.8*	.1
August	357.4	338.6	290.2	48.4	18.8	*5.3*	*7.6*	.1
September	344.7	327.9	289.9	38.0	16.8	*4.9*	*7.4*	.1
October	333.8	316.9	284.4	32.5	16.9	*5.1*	*7.2*	.1
November	331.2	311.8	283.6	28.2	19.4	*5.9*	*7.4*	.1
December	328.1	306.7	282.3	24.4	21.4	*6.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	*6.1*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	*7.9*	*8.3*	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	*7.9*	*8.5*	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	*6.7*	*6.9*	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	*6.1*	*6.4*	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	*6.3*	*7.5*	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	*6.0*	*7.0*	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	*5.7*	*6.8*	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	*5.5*	*6.6*	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	*5.4*	*6.3*	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	*6.1*	*6.0*	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	*8.1*	*7.0*	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	*8.8*	*6.9*	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	*8.3*	*6.6*	*
April	356.8	333.4	297.3	36.1	23.4	*6.6*	*5.8*	*
May	*363.7*	*342.8*	*305.6*	*37.2*	*20.9*	*5.7*		
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	29.5	27.2	26.4	.8	2.3	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
February	29.7	27.5	26.6	.9	2.2	*7.3*	*7.4*	*
March	30.8	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.3	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
April	30.8	28.9	27.5	1.4	1.9	*6.2*	*5.9*	*
May	31.1	29.3	27.9	1.4	1.8	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
June	32.4	30.0	28.4	1.6	2.4	*7.5*	*6.2*	*
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	32.8	30.8	28.9	1.9	2.0	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
September	31.8	30.1	28.6	1.5	1.7	*5.3*	*4.9*	*
October	31.9	30.1	28.8	1.3	1.8	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
November	32.0	30.1	29.0	1.1	1.9	*6.0*	*5.9*	*
December	30.2	28.3	27.3	1.0	1.9	*6.3*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	31.8	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.0	*6.3*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	*6.6*	*7.9*	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	*6.1*	*7.9*	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	*6.5*	*7.7*	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	*5.4*	*6.7*	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	*5.5*	*6.1*	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.9*	*6.3*	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	*6.1*	*5.7*	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*5.5*	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	*6.1*	*5.4*	.4
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	*5.7*	*6.0*	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	*6.2*	*6.1*	*
1977 Avg.	33.6	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.1	*6.2*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	*7.8*	*8.1*	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	*9.3*	*8.8*	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	*8.0*	*8.3*	*
April	35.2	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.2	*6.2*	*6.6*	*
May	*35.4*	*33.3*	*31.8*	*1.5*	*2.1*	*6.0*	*5.7*	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1976								
January	44.6	41.8	40.8	1.0	2.8	*6.2*	*7.9*	*
February	44.7	42.3	41.2	1.1	2.4	*5.4*	*7.4*	*
March	45.3	42.8	41.5	1.3	2.5	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
April	47.1	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.1	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
May	46.6	44.9	43.2	1.7	1.7	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	48.6	46.0	44.1	1.9	2.6	*5.4*	*6.2*	*
July	49.4	47.0	44.9	2.1	2.4	*4.8*	*5.5*	*
August	49.0	46.8	44.6	2.2	2.2	*4.4*	*5.3*	*
September	49.6	47.7	46.0	1.7	1.9	*3.9*	*4.9*	*
October	48.9	47.0	45.5	1.5	1.9	*3.9*	*5.1*	*
November	49.0	46.9	45.6	1.3	2.1	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	49.4	46.9	45.8	1.1	2.5	*5.0*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	48.5	46.2	44.7	1.5	2.3	*4.6*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	*5.4*	*7.9*	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	*5.5*	*7.9*	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	*5.2*	*7.7*	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	*4.4*	*6.7*	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.3*	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	*4.1*	*6.0*	.1
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	*4.4*	*5.7*	.1
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	*4.4*	*5.5*	.1
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	*4.3*	*5.4*	.1
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	*4.2*	*6.0*	.1
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	*4.3*	*6.1*	.1
1977 Avg.	50.6	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.4	*4.8*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	*6.0*	*8.1*	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	*6.7*	*8.8*	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	*6.7*	*8.3*	*
April	51.9	49.5	47.8	1.7	2.4	*4.7*	*6.6*	*
May	*52.0*	*49.6*	*47.9*	*1.7*	*2.4*	*4.7*	*5.7*	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

APRIL 1978

in Thousands

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

INDUSTRY	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Mar. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	356.8	350.6	336.5	6.2	20.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	333.4	321.6	313.9	11.8	19.5
Persons Employed in Agriculture	36.1	29.4	37.0	6.7	-.9
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	23.4	29.0	22.6	-5.6	.8
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.6*	*8.3*	*6.7*	*-1.7*	*-.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.4*	*7.2*	*6.6*	*-.8*	*-.2*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*265.6*	*263.7*	*256.0*	*1.9*	*9.6*
MANUFACTURING	*23.3*	*23.4*	*24.0*	*-.1*	*-.7*
Durable Goods	*15.0*	*15.1*	*15.3*	*-.1*	*-.3*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*8.6*	*8.7*	*8.9*	*-.1*	*-.3*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.3*	*3.3*	*3.3*	*0*	*0*
Other Durable Goods	*3.1*	*3.1*	*3.1*	*0*	*0*
Nondurable Goods	*8.3*	*8.3*	*8.7*	*0*	*-.4*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.6*	*3.7*	*4.0*	*-.1*	*-.4*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*0*	*0*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.0*	*1.0*	*1.1*	*0*	*-.1*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.6*	*1.5*	*1.5*	*.1*	*.1*
MINING	*6.8*	*6.3*	*6.1*	*.5*	*.7*
10 Metal Mining	*2.0*	*2.0*	*2.2*	*0*	*-.2*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.5*	*0*	*.2*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.1*	*2.6*	*2.4*	*.5*	*.7*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	14.4	13.4	14.7	1.0	-.3
15 General Building Contractors	4.5	4.4	5.2	.1	-.7
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.1	3.2	4.6	.9	-.5
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.8	5.8	4.9	0	.9
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	20.9	20.7	19.9	.2	1.0
40 Railroad Transportation	6.3	6.3	6.2	0	.1
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.3	6.1	6.1	.2	.2
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.3	8.3	7.6	0	.7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	67.0	66.5	64.2	.5	2.8
Wholesale Trade	17.4	17.1	15.4	.3	2.0
Retail Trade	49.6	49.4	48.8	.2	.8
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	7.7	7.7	7.6	0	.1
54 Food Stores	7.4	7.2	6.8	.2	.6
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.5	7.5	8.0	0	-.5
58 Eating and Drinking Places	17.9	17.9	17.3	0	.6
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	9.1	9.1	9.7	0	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	11.7	11.7	11.0	0	.7
SERVICES	48.4	48.4	47.6	0	.8
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.6	6.6	5.4	0	1.2
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.6	2.4	0	.2
80 Medical and other Health Services	16.0	16.0	15.2	0	.8
Other Services	23.2	23.2	24.6	0	-1.4
GOVERNMENT	73.1	73.3	68.5	-.2	4.6
91 Federal Government	14.0	14.0	13.1	0	.9
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.9	8.8	9.1	.1	-.2
92 Other State Government	11.2	11.3	11.1	-.1	.1
93 Local Education	25.4	25.6	22.4	-.2	3.0
93 Other Local Government	13.6	13.6	12.8	0	.8

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

APRIL 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	35.2	35.3	34.5	-.1	.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33.0	32.4	32.6	.6	.4
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.4	1.2	1.5	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.2	2.9	1.9	-.7	.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.2*	*8.0*	*5.4*	*-1.8*	*.8*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.5*	*7.4*	*5.7*	*-.9*	*.8*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*29.8*	*29.4*	*29.1*	*.4*	*.7*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.8*	*0*	*-.1*
Contract Construction	*1.9*	*1.6*	*1.9*	*.3*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*9.9*	*9.8*	*9.4*	*.1*	*.5*
Wholesale Trade	*3.0*	*2.9*	*2.7*	*.1*	*.3*
Retail Trade	*6.9*	*6.9*	*6.7*	*0*	*.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*6.5*	*6.5*	*6.3*	*0*	*.2*
Government	*6.1*	*6.1*	*6.1*	*0*	*0*
Federal Government	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.1*	*0*	*0*
State and Local Government	*4.0*	*4.0*	*4.0*	*0*	*0*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

APRIL 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	51.9	52.6	52.1	-.7	-.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	49.5	49.1	49.8	.4	-.3
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.7	1.3	1.7	.4	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.4	3.5	2.3	-1.1	.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	*4.7*	*6.7*	*4.4*	*-2.0*	*.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/] .	*4.8*	*5.9*	*4.5*	*-1.1*	*.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*43.0*	*42.7*	*42.3*	*.3*	*.7*
Manufacturing	*3.5*	*3.5*	*3.5*	*0*	*0*
Contract Construction	*2.6*	*2.5*	*2.8*	*.1*	*-.2*
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	*3.6*	*3.6*	*3.6*	*0*	*0*
Trade	*14.5*	*14.4*	*13.8*	*.1*	*.7*
Wholesale Trade	*5.6*	*5.5*	*4.7*	*.1*	*.9*
Retail Trade	*8.9*	*8.9*	*9.1*	*0*	*-.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.0*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*8.5*	*8.4*	*8.2*	*.1*	*.3*
Government	*8.2*	*8.2*	*8.4*	*0*	*-.2*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.8*	*0*	*-.3*
State and Local Government	*6.7*	*6.7*	*6.6*	*0*	*.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Table VII

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1978
STATEWIDE	341.3	350.6	356.8	311.3	321.6	333.4	30.0	29.0	23.4	*8.8*	*8.3*	*6.6*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36.2	35.3	35.2	32.8	32.4	33.0	3.4	2.9	2.2	*9.3*	*8.0*	*6.2*
BILLINGS SMSA	53.8	52.6	51.9	50.2	49.1	49.5	3.6	3.5	2.4	*6.7*	*6.7*	*4.7*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	251.3	262.7	269.7	228.3	240.1	250.9	23.0	22.6	18.8	*9.2*	*8.6*	*7.0*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	33.1	33.8	34.7	29.7	30.7	31.9	3.4	3.1	2.8	*10.2*	*9.1*	*8.1*
BOZEMAN	23.9	25.8	26.5	22.1	24.1	25.2	1.8	1.7	1.3	*7.4*	*6.6*	*5.0*
GLASGOW	16.0	16.6	17.5	14.7	15.4	16.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	*8.1*	*7.2*	*5.7*
GLENDIVE	13.2	14.0	14.7	12.4	13.1	14.1	.8	.9	.6	*6.4*	*6.4*	*3.9*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.1	11.8	12.0	10.1	10.8	11.3	1.0	1.0	.7	*9.3*	*8.2*	*5.6*
HAVRE	12.4	12.9	13.3	11.5	12.0	12.6	.9	.9	.7	*7.7*	*6.6*	*5.5*
HELENA	24.9	25.8	26.2	23.0	23.9	24.7	1.9	1.9	1.5	*7.7*	*7.3*	*5.8*
KALISPELL	31.9	34.4	35.2	27.8	29.9	31.0	4.1	4.5	4.2	*12.9*	*13.1*	*12.0*
LEWISTOWN	9.7	10.4	10.7	8.8	9.5	10.2	.9	.9	.5	*9.0*	*8.3*	*4.4*
MILES CITY	14.2	14.4	14.9	13.2	13.4	14.2	1.0	1.0	.7	*7.1*	*6.8*	*4.5*
MISSOULA	44.8	46.0	46.4	40.4	41.6	42.5	4.4	4.4	3.9	*9.8*	*9.5*	*8.3*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.0	16.8	17.7	14.5	15.5	16.7	1.5	1.3	1.0	*9.3*	*7.9*	*5.5*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	Percent Change 1977-1978	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	Net Change 1977-1978	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	Net Change 1977-1978
STATEWIDE	356.8	336.5	*6.0*	333.4	313.9	*6.2*	23.4	22.6	.8	*6.6*	*6.7*	*-.1*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.2	34.5	*2.0*	33.0	32.6	*1.2*	2.2	1.9	.3	*6.2*	*5.4*	*.8*
BILLINGS SMSA	51.9	52.1	*-.4*	49.5	49.8	*-.6*	2.4	2.3	.1	*4.7*	*4.4*	*.3*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	269.7	249.9	*7.9*	250.9	231.5	*8.4*	18.8	18.4	.4	*7.0*	*7.4*	*-.4*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.7	32.9	*5.5*	31.9	30.0	*6.3*	2.8	2.9	-.1	*8.1*	*8.7*	*-.6*
BOZEMAN	26.5	23.2	*14.2*	25.2	21.7	*16.1*	1.3	1.5	-.2	*5.0*	*6.5*	*-1.5*
GLASGOW	17.5	16.6	*5.4*	16.5	15.7	*5.1*	1.0	.9	.1	*5.7*	*5.4*	*.3*
GLENDIVE	14.7	13.5	*8.9*	14.1	13.0	*8.5*	.6	.5	.1	*3.9*	*4.0*	*-.1*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.0	11.6	*3.4*	11.3	10.9	*3.7*	.7	.7	0	*5.6*	*5.7*	*-.1*
HAVRE	13.3	12.4	*7.3*	12.6	11.8	*6.8*	.7	.6	.1	*5.5*	*5.3*	*.2*
HELENA	26.2	24.5	*6.9*	24.7	23.1	*6.9*	1.5	1.4	.1	*5.8*	*5.6*	*.2*
KALISPELL	35.2	30.8	*14.3*	31.0	27.0	*14.8*	4.2	3.8	.4	*12.0*	*12.2*	*-.2*
LEWISTOWN	10.7	10.1	*5.9*	10.2	9.5	*7.4*	.5	.6	-.1	*4.4*	*5.6*	*-1.2*
MILES CITY	14.9	14.4	*3.5*	14.2	13.8	*2.9*	.7	.6	.1	*4.5*	*4.4*	*.1*
MISSOULA	46.4	43.6	*6.4*	42.5	39.6	*7.3*	3.9	4.0	-.1	*8.3*	*9.1*	*-.8*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.7	16.2	*9.3*	16.7	15.2	*9.9*	1.0	1.0	0	*5.5*	*6.1*	*-.6*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

APRIL 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	356839	333408	23431	6.6
CASCADE	35147	32964	2183	6.2
YELLOWSTONE	51957	49539	2418	4.7
BEAVERHEAD	4297	4064	233	5.4
BIG HORN	4629	4302	327	7.1
BLAINE	2998	2727	271	9.0
BROADWATER	1438	1360	78	5.4
CARBON	3523	3322	201	5.7
CARTER	1039	999	40	3.8
CHOUTEAU	3197	3110	87	2.7
CUSTER	5638	5362	276	4.9
DANIELS	1500	1450	50	3.3
DAWSON	5619	5377	242	4.3
DEER LODGE	6591	6033	558	8.5
FALLON	2175	2112	63	2.9
FERGUS	5567	5310	257	4.6
FLATHEAD	20888	18705	2183	10.5
GALLATIN	20006	19125	881	4.4
GARFIELD	856	843	13	1.5
GLACIER	5092	4553	539	10.6
GOLDEN VALLEY	471	452	19	4.0
GRANITE	992	891	101	10.2
HILL	9050	8652	398	4.4
JEFFERSON	2628	2448	180	6.8
JUDITH BASIN	1316	1237	79	6.0
LAKE	6835	6265	570	8.3
LEWIS AND CLARK	22147	20889	1258	5.7
LIBERTY	1229	1167	62	5.0
LINCOLN	7485	6016	1469	19.6
MC CONE	1537	1444	93	6.1
MADISON	2609	2502	107	4.1
MEAGHER	965	902	63	6.5
MINERAL	1832	1646	186	10.2
MISSOULA	33413	30854	2559	7.7
MUSSELSHELL	1656	1589	67	4.0
PARK	5537	5166	371	6.7
PETROLEUM	342	337	5	1.5
PHILLIPS	2638	2492	146	5.5
PONDERA	3557	3425	132	3.7
POWDER RIVER	1141	1115	26	2.3
POWELL	3481	3222	259	7.4
PRAIRIE	957	922	35	3.7
RAVALLI	6824	6132	692	10.1
RICHLAND	4928	4769	159	3.2
ROOSEVELT	5663	5387	276	4.9
ROSEBUD	4348	4103	245	5.6
SANDERS	4347	3923	424	9.8
SHERIDAN	2508	2441	67	2.7
SILVER BOW	16781	15209	1572	9.4
STILLWATER	2215	2108	107	4.8
SWEET GRASS	1629	1592	37	2.3
TETON	3050	2944	106	3.5
TOOLE	2747	2632	115	4.2
TREASURE	537	519	18	3.4
VALLEY	5220	4762	458	8.8
WHEATLAND	1317	1273	44	3.3
WIBAUX	750	724	26	3.5

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

MARCH 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	350598	321600	28998	8.3
CASCADE	35254	32419	2835	8.0
YELLOWSTONE	52652	49134	3518	6.7
BEAVERHEAD	4098	3894	204	5.0
BIG HORN	4564	4068	496	10.9
BLAINE	2902	2637	265	9.1
BROADWATER	1416	1304	112	7.9
CARBON	3416	3138	278	8.1
CARTER	932	880	52	5.6
CHOUTEAU	2966	2820	146	4.9
CUSTER	5527	5107	420	7.6
DANIELS	1432	1364	68	4.7
DAWSON	5310	4979	331	6.2
DEER LODGE	6638	6016	622	9.4
FALLON	2100	1982	118	5.6
FERGUS	5433	4980	453	8.3
FLATHEAD	20438	17996	2442	11.9
GALLATIN	19542	18413	1129	5.8
GARFIELD	799	766	33	4.1
GLACIER	5008	4370	638	12.7
GOLDEN VALLEY	451	405	46	10.2
GRANITE	981	862	119	12.1
HILL	8823	8305	518	5.9
JEFFERSON	2611	2382	229	8.8
JUDITH BASIN	1241	1107	134	10.8
LAKE	6555	5916	639	9.7
LEWIS AND CLARK	21780	20241	1539	7.1
LIBERTY	1130	1062	68	6.0
LINCOLN	7439	6004	1435	19.3
MC CONE	1461	1284	177	12.1
MADISON	2448	2338	110	4.5
MEAGHER	877	797	80	9.1
MINERAL	1828	1626	202	11.1
MISSOULA	32881	30092	2789	8.5
MUSSELSHELL	1654	1508	146	8.8
PARK	5422	4915	507	9.4
PETROLEUM	324	314	10	3.1
PHILLIPS	2457	2265	192	7.8
PONDERA	3367	3171	196	5.8
POWDER RIVER	1021	975	46	4.5
POWELL	3381	3114	267	7.9
PRAIRIE	934	879	55	5.9
RAVALLI	6789	5935	854	12.6
RICHLAND	4822	4550	272	5.6
ROOSEVELT	5530	5190	340	6.1
ROSEBUD	4304	3977	327	7.6
SANDERS	4527	3999	528	11.7
SHERIDAN	2445	2344	101	4.1
SILVER BOW	16190	14440	1750	10.8
STILLWATER	2158	2031	127	5.9
SWEET GRASS	1622	1554	68	4.2
TETON	2766	2604	162	5.9
TOOLE	2760	2575	185	6.7
TREASURE	522	499	23	4.4
VALLEY	4724	4228	496	10.5
WHEATLAND	1278	1209	69	5.4
WIBAUX	668	636	32	4.8

TABLE IX C

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

FEBRUARY 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	341341	311317	30024	8.8
CASCADE	36249	32867	3382	9.3
YELLOWSTONE	53775	50170	3605	6.7
BEAVERHEAD	4013	3760	253	6.3
BIG HORN	4294	3821	473	11.0
BLAINE	2817	2516	301	10.7
BROADWATER	1388	1289	99	7.1
CARBON	3190	2875	315	9.9
CARTER	845	786	59	7.0
CHOUTEAU	2744	2611	133	4.8
CUSTER	5576	5156	420	7.5
DANIELS	1316	1264	52	4.0
DAWSON	4970	4636	334	6.7
DEER LODGE	6392	5673	719	11.2
FALLON	2003	1878	125	6.2
FERGUS	5124	4596	528	10.3
FLATHEAD	19454	17087	2367	12.2
GALLATIN	18028	16932	1096	6.1
GARFIELD	765	734	31	4.1
GLACIER	4801	4102	699	14.6
GOLDEN VALLEY	405	378	27	6.7
GRANITE	942	828	114	12.1
HILL	8576	7997	579	6.8
JEFFERSON	2522	2300	222	8.8
JUDITH BASIN	1119	994	125	11.2
LAKE	5923	5243	680	11.5
LEWIS AND CLARK	21033	19444	1589	7.6
LIBERTY	1033	951	82	7.9
LINCOLN	6539	5475	1064	16.3
MC CONE	1258	1129	129	10.3
MADISON	2204	2098	106	4.8
MEAGHER	756	671	85	11.2
MINERAL	1571	1376	195	12.4
MISSOULA	32411	29653	2758	8.5
MUSSELSHELL	1562	1438	124	7.9
PARK	5092	4515	577	11.3
PETROLEUM	288	278	10	3.5
PHILLIPS	2375	2191	184	7.7
PONDERA	3317	3058	259	7.8
POWDER RIVER	959	903	56	5.8
POWELL	3033	2811	222	7.3
PRAIRIE	911	845	66	7.2
RAVALLI	6373	5460	913	14.3
RICHLAND	4740	4490	250	5.3
ROOSEVELT	5550	5162	388	7.0
ROSEBUD	4416	4086	330	7.5
SANDERS	4399	3893	506	11.5
SHERIDAN	2180	2098	82	3.8
SILVER BOW	16509	14559	1950	11.8
STILLWATER	2259	2108	151	6.7
SWEET GRASS	1379	1286	93	6.7
TETON	2584	2362	222	8.6
TOOLE	2558	2387	171	6.7
TREASURE	448	424	24	5.4
VALLEY	4584	3990	594	13.0
WHEATLAND	1223	1159	64	5.2
WIBAUX	566	524	42	7.4

TABLE IX D

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

JANUARY 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	332097	305150	26947	8.1
CASCADE	35303	32551	2752	7.8
YELLOWSTONE	51852	48766	3086	6.0
BEAVERHEAD	3922	3715	207	5.3
BIG HORN	4206	3734	472	11.2
BLAINE	2728	2452	276	10.1
BROADWATER	1350	1254	96	7.1
CARBON	3107	2813	294	9.5
CARTER	816	745	71	8.7
CHOUTEAU	2661	2489	172	6.5
CUSTER	5466	5046	420	7.7
DANIELS	1300	1211	89	6.8
DAWSON	4810	4468	342	7.1
DEER LODGE	6050	5529	521	8.6
FALLON	1967	1867	100	5.1
FERGUS	4804	4390	414	8.6
FLATHEAD	19259	17047	2212	11.5
GALLATIN	17529	16512	1017	5.8
GARFIELD	748	708	40	5.3
GLACIER	4662	4084	578	12.4
GOLDEN VALLEY	375	361	14	3.7
GRANITE	949	845	104	11.0
HILL	6333	7812	521	6.3
JEFFERSON	2479	2263	216	8.7
JUDITH BASIN	1091	938	153	14.0
LAKE	5785	5136	649	11.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	20590	19179	1411	6.9
LIBERTY	978	918	60	6.1
LINCOLN	6447	5451	996	15.4
MC CONE	1310	1204	106	8.1
MADISON	2153	2007	146	6.8
MEAGHER	735	652	83	11.3
MINERAL	1440	1249	191	13.3
MISSOULA	32239	29577	2662	8.3
MUSSELSHELL	1590	1423	167	10.5
PARK	4888	4361	527	10.8
PETROLEUM	285	274	11	3.9
PHILLIPS	2253	2116	137	6.1
PONDERA	3187	2946	241	7.6
POWDER RIVER	921	868	53	5.8
POWELL	2873	2611	262	9.1
PRAIRIE	872	818	54	6.2
RAVALLI	6064	5238	826	13.6
RICHLAND	4717	4547	170	3.6
ROOSEVELT	5359	5011	348	6.5
ROSEBUD	4139	3834	305	7.4
SANDERS	4256	3805	451	10.6
SHERIDAN	2143	2047	96	4.5
SILVER BOW	16080	14443	1637	10.2
STILLWATER	2206	2086	120	5.4
SWEET GRASS	1292	1243	49	3.8
TETON	2516	2308	208	8.3
TOOLE	2529	2337	192	7.6
TREASURE	438	407	31	7.1
VALLEY	4319	3837	482	11.2
WHEATLAND	1205	1118	87	7.2
WIBAUX	521	499	22	4.2

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

APRIL 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	Apr. 1978 1/	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						April 1978		March 1978	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers	116.6	116.2	107.0	.4	9.6	265.6	*43.9*	263.7	*44.1*
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	3.1	0	-.4	23.3	*11.5*	23.4	*11.4*
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0	6.8	*5.0*	6.3	*5.2*
Contract Construction	1.2	1.1	.8	.1	.4	14.4	*8.1*	13.4	*8.1*
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.8	3.8	3.4	0	.4	20.9	*18.0*	20.7	*18.1*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.9	30.8	28.8	.1	2.1	67.0	*46.1*	66.5	*46.3*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	6.9	0	1.0	11.7	*67.5*	11.7	*67.4*
Services	33.5	33.4	31.4	.1	2.1	48.4	*69.3*	48.4	*69.1*
Government 2/	36.3	36.2	32.3	.1	4.0	73.1	*49.7*	73.3	*49.4*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1977 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction.....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government1/	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

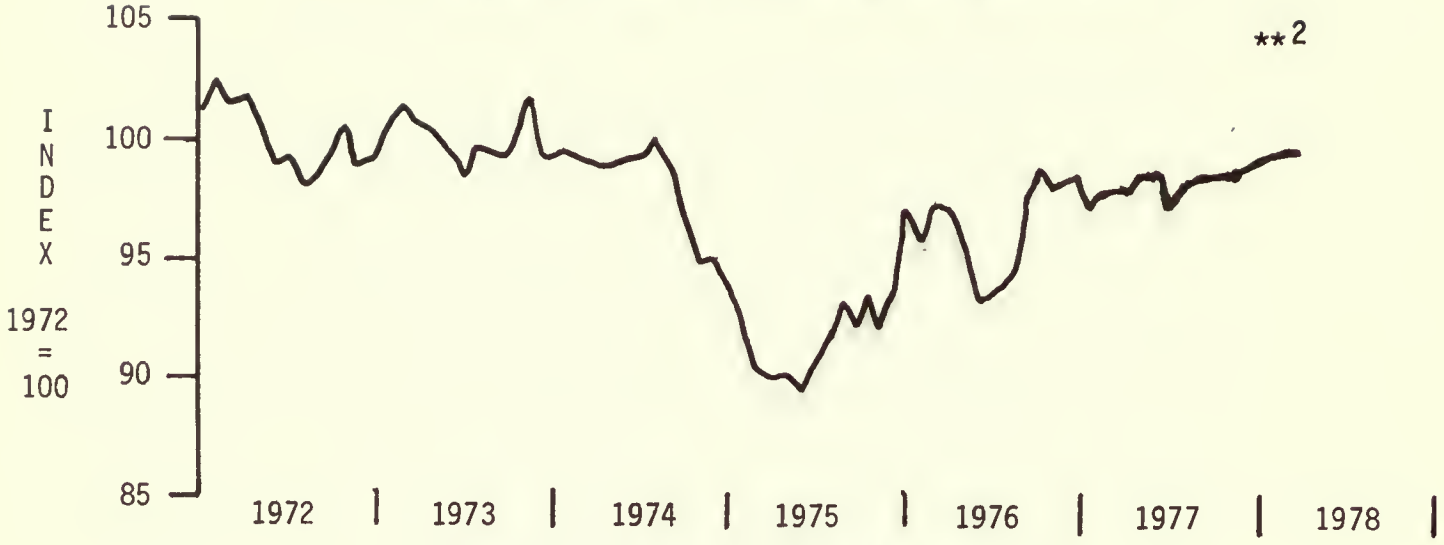
1978

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	115.2	115.4	116.2	116.6
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Mining.....	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	30.7	30.5	30.8	30.9
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9
Services.....	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5
Government1/.....	35.8	35.9	36.2	36.3

1/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark. Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS
1972 = 100

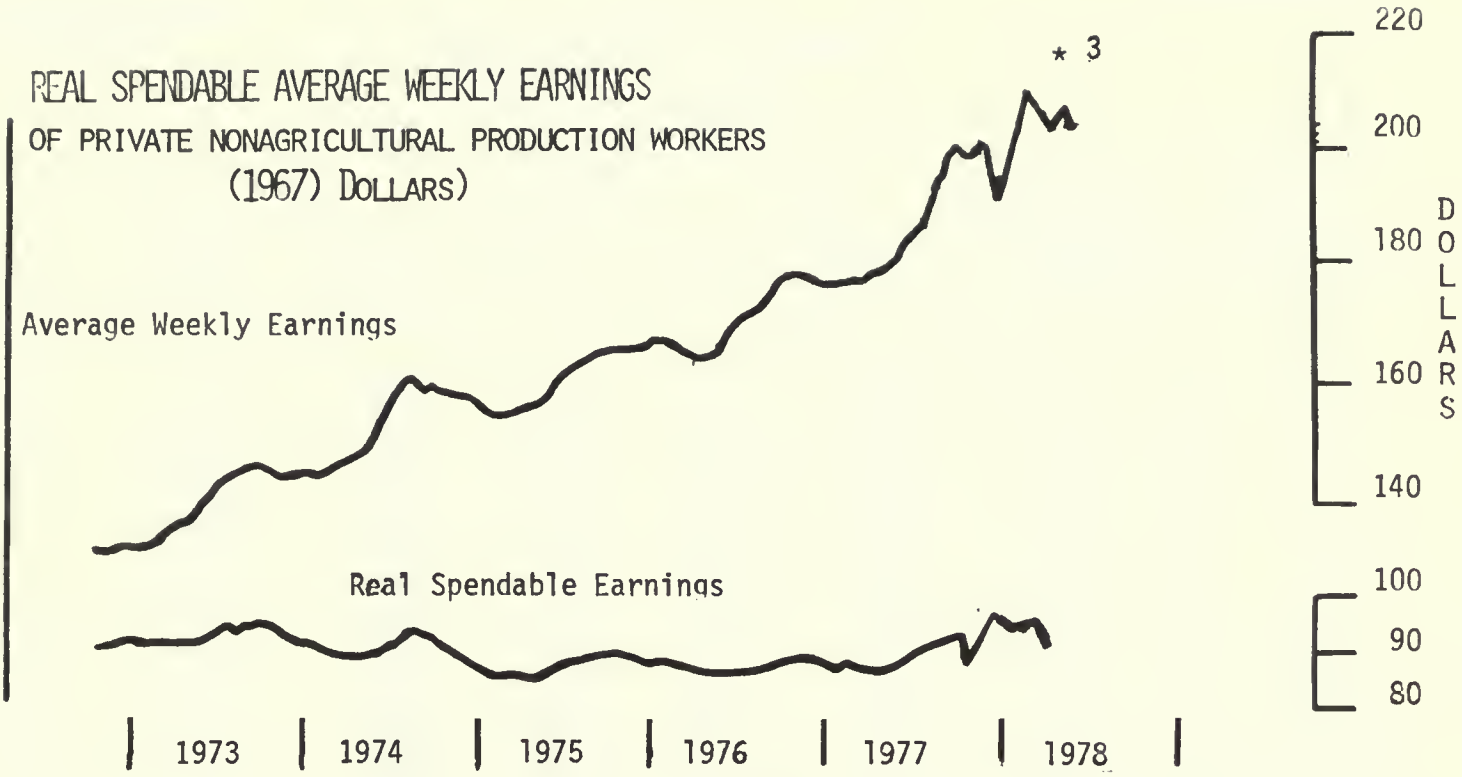
1977	
January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The composite index of six leading economic indicators continued on an upward course in February. Reaching a level of 100.2, the index marked its third consecutive month of increase, with improvements registered in the accession and layoff rates as well as average weekly hours in manufacturing and total building permits.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1978
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$203.28	$209.10	$174.94
Taxes Withheld	31.19	32.68	26.31
Spendable Earnings	172.10	176.42	148.63
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	81.39	82.79	65.23
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	90.71	93.63	83.40

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1977		
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44
1978		
Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.		
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

True to form, earnings levels have continued their month-to-month fluctuations thus far in 1978. Gross average weekly earnings dipped in March, and this, coupled with a rising consumer price index, decreased real spendable earnings to $90.71 during the month. In general, however, real earnings are remaining higher than they have been in recent years.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	327.7	307.2	275.1	32.1	20.5	6.3	7.8	*
February	328.3	308.8	275.6	33.2	19.5	5.9	7.6	*
March	328.3	308.3	275.2	33.1	20.0	6.1	7.5	*
April	330.0	311.1	276.8	34.3	18.9	5.7	7.5	*
May	329.4	310.3	277.1	33.2	19.1	5.8	7.3	*
June	326.4	306.8	273.4	33.4	19.6	6.0	7.5	.1
July	334.2	313.9	279.4	34.5	20.3	6.1	7.8	.1
August	333.9	313.2	279.3	33.9	20.7	6.2	7.9	.1
September	335.6	315.5	282.2	33.3	20.1	6.0	7.8	.1
October	335.0	315.1	281.9	33.2	19.9	5.9	7.9	.1
November	337.2	317.0	283.8	33.2	20.2	6.0	8.1	.1
December	337.0	315.9	282.3	33.6	21.1	6.3	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	361.1	337.9	302.4	35.5	23.2	6.4	6.0	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	30.7	28.6	27.3	1.3	2.1	6.9	6.3	*
February	31.2	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.0	6.5	5.9	*
March	31.3	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
April	30.8	28.8	27.4	1.4	2.0	6.5	5.7	*
May	30.9	29.0	27.7	1.3	1.9	6.2	5.8	*
June	31.0	28.9	27.6	1.3	2.1	6.8	6.0	*
July	31.6	29.5	28.1	1.4	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
August	31.7	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
September	31.6	29.7	28.4	1.3	1.9	6.1	6.0	*
October	31.7	29.8	28.5	1.3	1.9	6.1	5.9	*
November	32.2	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.0	*
December	30.8	28.9	27.6	1.3	1.9	6.3	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	31.8	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.0	6.3	6.1	*
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	33.6	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.1	6.2	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.8	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.2	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.4	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	46.0	43.6	42.2	1.4	2.4	5.2	6.3	*
February	46.4	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.1	4.6	5.9	*
March	46.5	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.2	4.8	6.1	*
April	47.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.2	4.7	5.7	*
May	46.8	44.6	43.1	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.8	*
June	47.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.0	*
July	48.0	45.7	44.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
August	47.9	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.2	*
September	49.3	47.1	45.6	1.5	2.2	4.4	6.0	*
October	48.6	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.9	*
November	48.9	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.0	*
December	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	48.5	46.2	44.7	1.5	2.3	4.6	6.1	*
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	50.6	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.0	49.5	47.9	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.4	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

APRIL 1978

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$206.27	$203.28	$178.69	35.2	35.6	34.9	$5.86	$5.71	$5.12
MANUFACTURING	318.59	324.00	252.72	41.7	43.2	40.5	7.64	7.50	6.24
Durable Goods	309.82	320.29	254.00	41.2	43.4	41.3	7.52	7.38	6.15
Primary Metal Industries	325.96	318.80	296.70	39.8	40.0	40.7	8.19	7.97	7.29
Nondurable Goods	341.35	332.21	250.00	43.1	42.7	38.7	7.92	7.78	6.46
Food and Kindred Products	279.10	287.29	216.59	44.8	45.1	37.8	6.23	6.37	5.73
MINING	369.64	363.65	328.42	42.1	41.8	45.3	8.78	8.70	7.25
Metal Mining	396.99	392.22	310.70	40.1	39.9	42.1	9.90	9.83	7.38
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	424.76	414.59	338.72	32.4	31.6	38.8	13.11	13.12	8.73
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	297.05	297.36	292.63	41.2	41.3	41.1	7.21	7.20	7.12
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	283.90	284.57	263.98	42.5	42.6	40.8	6.68	6.68	6.47
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	159.73	156.56	146.48	32.4	33.1	31.3	4.93	4.73	4.68
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	149.17	144.36	131.02	37.2	37.4	36.7	4.01	3.86	3.57
SERVICES	132.40	131.27	109.35	33.1	32.9	28.7	4.00	3.99	3.81

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

MARCH 1978

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977	Mar. 1978	Feb. 1978	Mar. 1977
MANUFACTURING	2.9	1.8	3.2	1.6	1.2	2.6	3.0	2.4	3.9	1.2	.8	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.0
Durable Goods	3.6	2.4	3.2	1.8	1.6	2.7	3.6	1.3	2.4	1.3	.7	1.0	1.9	.3	.9
Primary Metal Industries	1.4	1.2	4.8	.2	1.2	4.0	1.4	.3	3.5	.4	.1	.6	.3	0	2.6
Nondurable Goods	1.6	.8	3.0	1.1	.6	2.6	1.8	4.6	6.4	1.2	1.1	1.8	.2	3.3	3.9
MINING	8.7	.2	3.3	7.7	0	2.0	1.1	2.7	3.0	.2	1.0	1.5	.1	.1	.7
Metal Mining	2.2	.7	3.0	.3	0	*	2.4	2.7	3.3	.4	.1	.3	.2	.2	1.9

* *Less than .05.*

Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	20	10	132	104
MINING	7	13	25	52
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	63	80	279	280
MANUFACTURING	16	27	71	68
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	10	13	62	54
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	85	113	421	398
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	25	32	159	155
SERVICES	117	117	480	484
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	1	8	8	27
STATE TOTAL	344	413	1637	1622

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	344	413	1637	1622
GREAT FALLS SMSA	28	49	144	195
BILLINGS SMSA	47	47	263	235
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	28	24	120	124
Beaverhead	7	2	21	15
Deer Lodge	1	1	10	3
Granite	0	1	4	4
Madison	0	3	16	15
Powell	2	1	12	9
Silver Bow	18	16	57	78
BOZEMAN LMA	36	43	153	167
Gallatin	29	33	123	130
Meagher	0	0	2	2
Park	7	10	28	35
GLASGOW LMA	7	13	34	41
Daniels	0	0	2	2
Phillips	1	2	5	4
Roosevelt	4	9	14	13
Sheridan	1	0	4	5
Valley	1	2	9	17
GLENDIVE LMA	5	18	53	49
Dawson	1	7	14	16
Garfield	3	0	7	3
McCone	0	1	3	1
Prairie	0	2	6	9
Richland	1	7	23	18
Wibaux	0	1	0	2
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	16	12	57	36
Big Horn	4	3	18	11
Carbon	3	6	19	16
Stillwater	5	2	9	7
Sweet Grass	4	1	11	2

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Dat	
	Apr. 1978	Apr. 1977	1978	1977
HAVRE LMA	5	15	45	50
Blaine	1	3	9	8
Hill	2	8	24	26
Liberty	2	4	12	16
HELENA LMA	31	33	133	123
Broadwater	1	1	4	6
Jefferson	1	1	10	7
Lewis and Clark	29	31	119	110
KALISPELL LMA	49	56	195	194
Flathead	36	44	138	129
Lake	5	6	31	36
Lincoln	8	6	26	29
LEWISTOWN LMA	8	6	31	36
Fergus	6	2	21	23
Golden Valley	0	0	0	1
Judith Basin	2	1	2	2
Musselshell	0	3	4	9
Petroleum	0	0	1	0
Wheatland	0	0	3	1
MILES CITY LMA	5	9	42	45
Carter	0	0	4	3
Custer	3	6	12	25
Fallon	2	0	6	3
Powder River	0	0	4	0
Rosebud	0	2	16	11
Treasure	0	1	0	3
MISSOULA LMA	49	78	273	248
Mineral	1	1	5	2
Missoula	35	55	202	181
Ravalli	11	13	49	44
Sanders	2	9	17	21
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	30	10	94	79
Chouteau	7	1	16	9
Glacier	7	2	26	9
Pondera	7	5	21	26
Teton	2	0	10	6
Toole	7	2	21	29

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

APRIL 1978	INTRASTATE	
COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	195	14,768.89
BIG HORN	312	24,612.32
BLAINE	280	19,561.22
BROADWATER	80	5,627.50
CARBON	265	20,340.20
CARTER	32	2,765.00
CASCADE	2,957	210,553.32
CHOUTEAU	96	4,895.60
CUSTER	453	34,483.32
DANIELS	54	3,667.28
DAWSON	291	22,307.00
DEER LODGE	929	73,140.80
FALLON	68	4,774.04
FERGUS	379	26,197.09
FLATHEAD	3,438	264,189.45
GALLATIN	1,439	100,183.26
GARFIELD	17	1,354.00
GLACIER	659	48,708.41
GOLDEN VALLEY	15	721.00
GRANITE	140	10,092.00
HILL	529	39,990.13
JEFFERSON	209	16,950.00
JUDITH BASIN	96	7,958.04
LAKE	605	42,150.46
LEWIS & CLARK	1,846	137,009.67
LIBERTY	76	5,276.00
LINCOLN	2,482	196,447.62
MADISON	77	5,137.00
MCCONE	147	9,188.16
MEAGHER	100	7,267.00
MINERAL	157	12,566.24
MISSOULA	3,517	236,329.96
MUSSELSHELL	129	8,744.00
PARK	481	33,068.33
PETROLEUM	6	624.00
PHILLIPS	203	14,041.00
PONDERA	146	10,384.00
POWDER RIVER	16	1,461.00
POWELL	359	27,320.00
PRAIRIE	57	4,761.00
RAVALLI	813	51,909.73
RICHLAND	189	14,557.65
ROOSEVELT	277	19,121.52
ROSEBUD	274	21,458.23
SANDERS	656	51,950.58
SHERIDAN	57	3,647.48
SILVER BOW	2,492	195,329.14
STILLWATER	119	9,315.00
SWEETGRASS	28	1,939.00
TETON	121	8,695.02
TOOLE	227	17,279.60
TREASURE	22	2,275.00
VALLEY	444	31,467.93
WHEATLAND	36	2,823.00
WIBAUX	25	1,944.00
YELLOWSTONE	3,557	267,454.28
TOTAL FOR STATE	31,915	2,496,175.09
INTERSTATE	1,515	124,781.81
TOTAL	33,430	2,620,956.90

TABLE XX

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY THROUGH APRIL

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	INTRASTATE AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,363	106,299.17
BIG HORN	2,090	171,230.40
BLAINE	1,488	113,217.87
BROADWATER	563	43,559.30
CARBON	1,727	137,382.36
CARTER	271	22,827.40
CASCADE	18,497	1,410,626.78
CHOUTEAU	556	35,725.60
CUSTER	2,733	216,505.93
DANIELS	342	23,935.56
DAWSON	1,705	135,862.38
DEER LODGE	5,040	408,934.60
FALLON	603	41,194.04
FERGUS	2,967	225,338.08
FLATHEAD	14,869	1,105,267.40
GALLATIN	7,279	539,683.76
GARFIELD	156	12,055.63
GLACIER	3,640	283,482.09
GOLDEN VALLEY	87	5,407.00
GRANITE	624	46,043.00
HILL	3,147	240,962.41
JEFFERSON	1,349	115,838.00
JUDITH BASIN	667	57,680.73
LAKE	3,826	278,040.18
LEWIS & CLARK	10,391	816,533.65
LIBERTY	349	27,776.00
LINCOLN	7,385	553,059.33
MADISON	410	32,582.00
MCCONE	684	48,691.61
MEAGHER	449	35,764.44
MINERAL	1,022	83,389.99
MISSOULA	16,740	1,191,925.46
MUSSELSHELL	827	66,273.80
PARK	2,912	209,068.90
PETROLEUM	31	3,203.00
PHILLIPS	970	69,776.25
PONDERA	1,040	84,641.50
POWDER RIVER	129	12,681.00
POWELL	1,696	126,971.31
PRAIRIE	377	34,439.00
RAVALLI	4,603	312,743.69
RICHLAND	1,084	83,065.12
ROOSEVELT	1,426	97,627.26
ROSEBUD	1,871	150,003.00
SANDERS	3,202	254,631.57
SHERIDAN	396	28,979.04
SILVER BOW	13,225	1,055,150.56
STILLWATER	782	64,731.92
SWEETGRASS	218	16,920.00
TETON	908	68,728.52
TOOLE	1,154	89,837.41
TREASURE	151	15,283.00
VALLEY	2,721	204,205.56
WHEATLAND	318	25,249.00
WIBAUX	95	7,883.00
YELLOWSTONE	20,974	1,661,823.97
TOTAL FOR STATE	174,675	13,936,483.09
INTERSTATE	8,547	837,234.18
TOTAL	183,222	14,773,717.27

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1/]	18,281	18,618	-337	*-1.8*
Continued Claims[1/]	211.812	191,585	20,227	*10.6*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	174,675	177,045	-2,370	*-1.3*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$13,936,483	$13,664,379	$272,104	*2.0*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2/]	$84.56	$79.28	$5.28	*6.7*

MONTHLY

	Apr. 1978	Mar. 1978	Apr. 1977	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1/]	2,932	3,811	3,716	-784	*-21.1*
Continued Claims[1/]	36,980	62,048	39,009	-2,029	*-5.2*
Number of Benefit Payments[1/]	31,915	51,882	37,403	-5,488	*-14.7*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1/]	$2,496,175	$4,079,912	$2,886,263	-390,088	*-13.5*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2/]	$82.65	$82.78	$78.50	$4.15	*5.3*
Trust Fund Balance	-$7,333,083*	-$9,917,279*	-$5,623,262**	-$1,709,821	*-30.4*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089.*
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $ 9,284,089.*

The initial and continued claims totals displayed their seasonal trend by dropping from March to April. Both statistics showed a decline in their monthly totals from April 1977. The year-to-date figures show initial claims to be slightly below last year's total at the time, whereas continued claims are running ahead of 1977's year-to-date figures.

The number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid decreased from March to April, and also from April of a year ago. The year-to-date total from the number of benefit payments is slightly below this point last year, but the total for the amount of benefits paid is narrowly ahead of 1977.

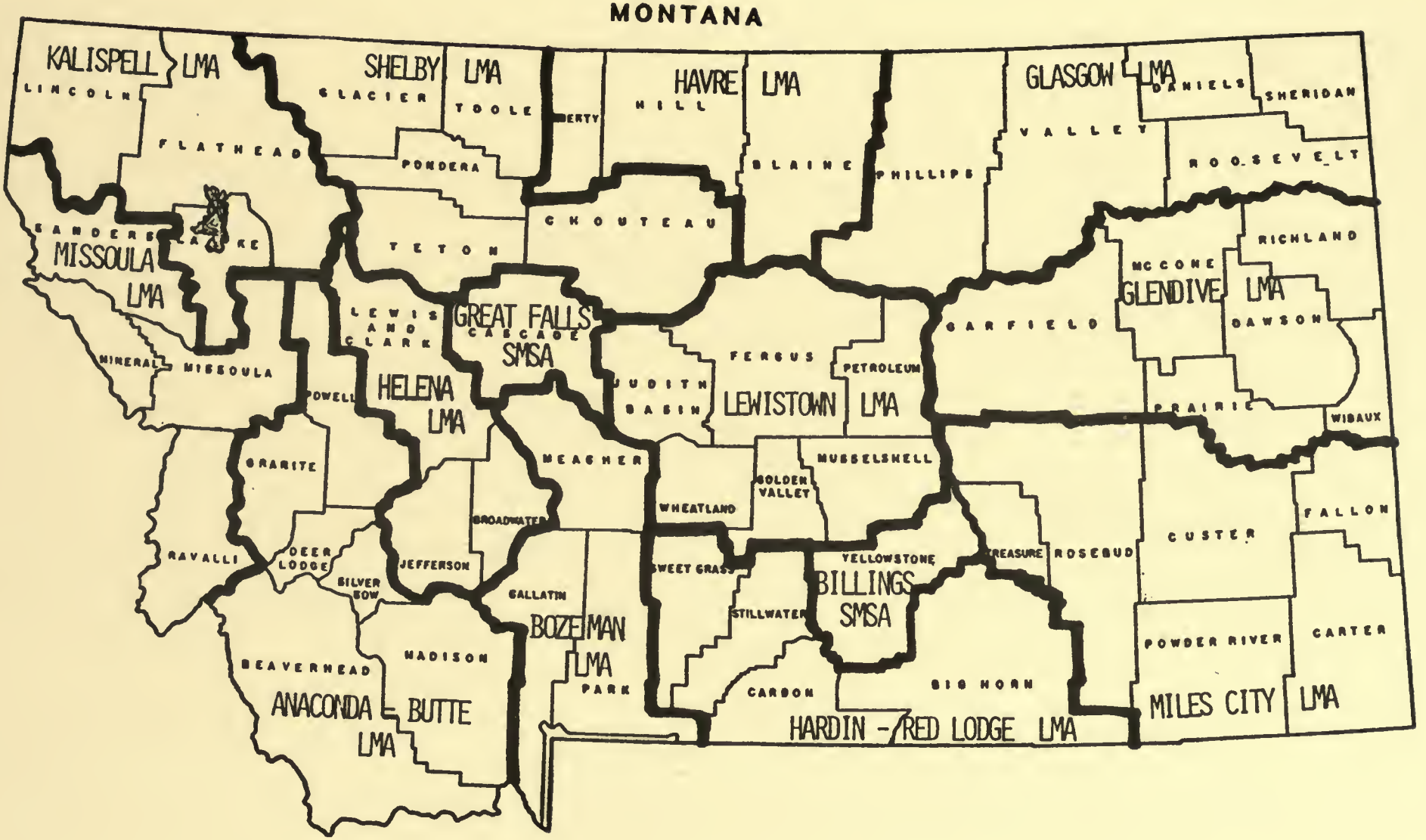
The average weekly benefit amount remained virtually the same as last month, but rose over April of 1977. The average check for 1978 is well ahead of last year's year-to-date figure.

The trust fund balance improved in April, with the deficit falling slightly from March. This is due to a decrease in benefit payments and an increase in contributions from covered employers for the first quarter.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

U.S.MAIL

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.